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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Observations in the Port of Constanta

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SOURCE Officers of an Italian merchant ship.

The Office of Naval Intelligence furnished the following information to CIA for IAC dissemination in accordance with paragraph 3c of NSCID #7. This information was obtained by DIO-3ND and was forwarded as ONI report 9-54.7

- Naval Vessels:** Four destroyers and one naval training vessel were observed in the port. Three of the destroyers were three-stack ships, and the other had two stacks. The training ship had masts fitted for sails. All of the ships are believed to be Rumanian.
- Merchant Shipping:** The following non-Communist merchant ships were in the Port of Constanta on 14 November 1953:
 - Star of Suez (EG)
 - Arno (IT)
 - An Italian ship of 400 to 500 gross tons believed to be named San Pietro or a variation of Saint Peter
 - A Norwegian tanker of 6000 to 7000 gross tons
 - A Greek cargo ship of approximately 10,000 gross tons
 - A Turkish cargo ship of unknown tonnage
- Security Measures:** The Italian ship Arno was subjected to the following boarding and security procedures on her arrival in Constanta. The ship was boarded outside the harbor by a pilot and one soldier. The remainder of the boarding party came aboard at the dock. The ship's crew was immediately locked in a coal room amidship between decks. One crew member accompanied the unarmed searching party of fifteen men. The search required three hours when the ship arrived and the search before the ship sailed took an hour and a half. A gangway watch armed with rifles was set while the ship was in port. All cameras were sealed and radio silence was maintained in port. The ship's crew was permitted to go ashore.
- Miscellaneous Information:** The town of Constanta is a military base with very few civilians present. There is very little food or clothing available, although the signs on the outside of stores give the impression of plenty. Such items as are for sale are priced high. The only source of income apparently open to civilians is wood-chopping. Houses are in poor condition. Men (military and civilian) do not talk to foreign seamen. However, there is an abundance

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of women who ask questions concerning other ports. Source believes they prostitute themselves for port information, as they do not accept the more usual recompense.

25X1A [] Comment: The tonnage estimates in the second paragraph of this report are considered of doubtful accuracy inasmuch as the 6240 gross ton Star of Suez was judged by the source to be of approximately 10,000 gross tons. The presence of the Star of Suez in Constanta at the time of this information is consistent with Lloyd's Shipping Index of 16 November 1953.⁷

-end-

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